

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1189082-2

Total Deleted Page(s) = 10
Page 120 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 122 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 124 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 125 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 181 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 182 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 183 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 202 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 203 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 204 ~ Referral/Consult;

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X For this Page X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 87th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Beliefs and Principles of the John Birch Society

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. JOHN H. ROUSSELOT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 1962

Mr. ROUSSELOT. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues have questioned me concerning the beliefs and principles of the John Birch Society. For their benefit, under unanimous consent I insert those beliefs and principles in the Appendix of the RECORD.

GENERAL BELIEFS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

I.

With very few exceptions the members of the John Birch Society are deeply religious people. A member's particular faith is entirely his own affair. Our hope is to make better Catholics, better Protestants, better Jews—or better Moslems—out of those who belong to the society. Our never-ending concern is with morality, integrity, and purpose. Regardless of the differences between us in creed and dogma, we all believe that man is endowed by a Divine Creator with an innate desire and conscious purpose to improve both his world and himself. We believe that the direction which constitutes improvement is clearly visible and identifiable throughout man's known history, and that this God-given upward reach in the heart of man is a composite conscience to which we all must listen.

II.

We believe that the Communists seek to drive their slaves and themselves along exactly the opposite and downward direction, to the Satanic debasement of both man and his universe. We believe that communism is as utterly incompatible with all religion as it is contemptuous of all morality and destructive of all freedom. It is intrinsically evil. It must be opposed, therefore, with equal firmness, on religious grounds, moral grounds, and political grounds. We believe that the continued coexistence of communism and a Christian-style civilization on one planet is impossible. The struggle between them must end with one completely triumphant and the other completely destroyed. We intend to do our part, therefore, to halt, weaken, rout, and eventually to bury the whole international Communist conspiracy.

III.

We believe that means are as important as ends in any civilized society. Of all the falsehoods that have been so widely and deliberately circulated about us, none is so viciously untrue as the charge that we are willing to condone foul means for the sake

of achieving praiseworthy ends. We think that communism as a way of life, for instance, is completely wrong; but our ultimate quarrel with the Communists is that they insist on imposing that way of life on the rest of us by murder, treason, and cruelty rather than by persuasion. Even if our own use of force ever becomes necessary and morally acceptable because it is in self-defense, we must never lose sight of the legal, traditional, and humanitarian considerations of a compassionate civilization. The Communists recognize no such compulsions, but this very ingredient of amoral brutishness will help to destroy them in the end.

IV.

We believe in patriotism. Most of us will gladly concede that a parliament of nations, designed for the purpose of increasing the freedom and ease with which individuals, ideals, and goods might cross national boundaries, would be desirable. And we hope that in some future decade we may help to bring about such a step of progress in man's pursuit of peace, prosperity, and happiness. But we feel that the present United Nations was designed by its founders for the exactly opposite purpose of increasing the rigidity of Government controls over the lives and affairs of individual men. We believe it has become, as it was intended to become, a major instrumentality for the establishment of a one-world Communist tyranny over the population of the whole earth. One of our most immediate objectives, therefore, is to get the United States out of the United Nations, and the United Nations out of the United States. We seek thus to save our own country from the gradual and piecemeal surrender of its sovereignty to this Communist-controlled supergovernment, and to stop giving our support to the steady enslavement of other people through the machinations of this Communist agency.

V.

We believe that a constitutional Republic, such as our Founding Fathers gave us, is probably the best of all forms of government. We believe that a democracy, which they tried hard to obviate, and into which the liberals have been trying for 50 years to convert our Republic, is one of the worst of all forms of government. We call attention to the fact that up to 1928 the U.S. Army Training Manual still gave our men in uniform the following quite accurate definition, which would have been thoroughly approved by the Constitutional Convention that established our Republic. "Democracy: A Government of the masses. Authority derived through mass meeting or any form of direct expression results in mobocracy. Attitude toward property is communistic—negating property rights. Attitude towards law is that the will of the majority shall regulate, whether it be based upon deliberation or governed by passion, prejudice, and impulse,

without restraint or regard to consequences. Results in demagogism, license, agitation, discontent, anarchy." It is because all history proves this to be true that we repeat so emphatically: "This is a Republic, not a democracy; let's keep it that way."

VI.

We are opposed to collectivism as a political and economic system, even when it does not have the police-state features of communism. We are opposed to it no matter whether the collectivism be called socialism or the welfare state or the New Deal or the Fair Deal or the New Frontier, or advanced under some other semantic disguise. And we are opposed to it no matter what may be the framework or form of government under which collectivism is imposed. We believe that increasing the size of government, increasing the centralization of government, and increasing the functions of government all act as brakes on material progress and as destroyers of personal freedom.

VII.

We believe that even where the size and functions of government are properly limited, as much of the power and duties of government as possible should be retained in the hands of as small governmental units as possible, as close to the people served by such units as possible. For the tendencies of any governing body to waste, expansion, and despotism all increase with the distance of that body from the people governed; the more closely any governing body can be kept under observation by those who pay its bills and provide its delegated authority, the more honestly responsible it will be. And the diffusion of governmental power and functions is one of the greatest safeguards against tyranny man has yet devised. For this reason it is extremely important in our case to keep our township, city, County and State governments from being bribed and coerced into coming under one direct chain of control from Washington.

VIII.

We believe that for any people eternal vigilance is the price of liberty far more as against the insidious encroachment of internal tyranny than against the danger of subjugation from the outside or from the prospect of any sharp and decisive revolution. In a republic we must constantly seek to elect and to keep in power a government we can trust, manned by people we can trust, maintaining a currency we can trust, and working for purposes we can trust (none of which we have today). We think it is even more important for the government to obey the laws than for the people to do so. But for 30 years we have had a steady stream of governments which increasingly have regarded our laws and even our Constitution as mere pieces of paper, which should not be allowed to stand in the way of what they, in their omniscient benevolence, considered to

644926-84733

220504

ENCLOSURE

6-13-86

Spencer

ENCLOSURE

62-104401

MAR 19 1962

be "for the greatest good of the great number." (Or in their power-seeking pretended so to believe.) We want a restoration of a "government of laws, and not of men" in this country; and if a few impeachments are necessary to bring that about, then we are all for the impeachments.

IX

We believe that in a general way history repeats itself. For any combination of causes, similar to an earlier combination of causes, will lead as a rule to a combination of results somewhat similar to the one produced before. And history is simply a series of causes which produced results, and so on around cycles as clearly discernible as any of the dozens that take place elsewhere in the physical and biological sciences. But we believe that the most important history consists not of the repetitions but of the changes in these recurring links in the series. For the changes mark the extent to which man

has either been able to improve himself and his environment, or has allowed both to deteriorate, since the last time around. We think that this true history is largely determined by ambitious individuals (both good and evil) and by small minorities who really know what they want. And in the John Birch Society our sense of gratitude and responsibility (to God and to the noble men of the past), for what we have inherited makes us determined to exert our influence, labor, and sacrifice for changes which we think will constitute improvement.

X

In summary, we are striving, by all honorable means at our disposal and to the limits of our energies and abilities, to bring about less government, more responsibility, and a better world. Because the Communists seek, always and everywhere, to bring about more government, less individual responsibility, and a completely amoral world, we would have to oppose them at every turn, even on the philosophical level. Because

are seeking through a giganticly organized conspiracy to destroy all opposition, we must fight them even more aggressively on the plane of action. But our struggle with the Communists, while the most urgent and important task before us today, is basically only incidental to our more important long-range and constructive purposes. For that very reason we are likely to be more effective against the Communists than if we were merely an ad hoc group seeking to expose and destroy so huge and powerful a gang of criminals. In organization, dedication, and purpose we offer a new form of opposition to the Communists which they have not faced in any other country. We have tried to raise a standard to which the wise and the honest can repair. We welcome all honorable allies in this present unceasing war. And we hope that once they and we and millions like us have won a decisive victory at last, many of these same allies will join us in our long look toward the future.

John Birch Society Investigated

EXTENSION OF REMARKS
OF
HON. JOHN H. ROUSSELOT
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 1962

Mr. ROUSSELOT. Mr. Speaker, the Efficiency Research Bureau, a private investigating firm, has completed a thorough investigation of the John Birch Society in Orange County, Calif. Findings of the Bureau are reported in the March 1962, issue of the Santa Ana Register, a newspaper published in Orange County. I believe the findings will be of interest to my colleagues. Under unanimous consent I place the report which appeared in the Register in the Appendix of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The report follows:

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY INVESTIGATED

A private investigating firm, Efficiency Research Bureau, 800 South Harbor Boulevard, Anaheim, conducted a thorough investigation of the John Birch Society in Orange County, Calif. Efficiency Research Bureau was hired by the president of a local manufacturing firm to make an impartial study.

644926-84733

A five-man team of investigators, including a Negro clergyman, sat in on numerous Birch meetings and accumulated a wealth of data on the organization and its operation. The following are the 14 conclusions to which the investigating team came, based upon their extensive research:

1. Many of the allegations and rumors against the John Birch Society could not be supported by fact.
2. The John Birch Society is an anti-Communist movement open to anyone interested in joining or attending meetings.
3. It's not a secret organization, but rather groups meeting for discussion of views and ways in which to fight the international Communist conspiracy.
4. The majority of John Birch Society members don't support or agree with many of the statements of Robert Welch, the society's founder; they seldom disagree with him on policy.
5. Each chapter is independent and each member cooperates with chapter, State and national views according to the dictates of his own conscience.
6. Efficiency Research Bureau investigators attending these meetings have found groups as small as 15 and as large as 59 at a single meeting. About 15 seemed to be preferred.
7. All indications show that the John Birch Society anti-Communist movement is growing continuously and steadily.

8. Utilizing both white and colored investigators, it was learned the John Birch Society isn't anti-Semitic, anti-Negro, or anti any religious group. That they, in fact, have chapters comprised entirely of colored membership. Also, it was found John Birch Society has Jewish members on the national advisory council.

9. Investigators found no evidence of violence or unlawful activity engaged in by the John Birch Society.

10. Investigators did learn that there were individuals who carried personal prejudices with them into the organization. It was learned John Birch Society works to isolate persons with such prejudice. If a whole chapter is found to share certain prejudices the area coordinators try to disseminate such groups.

11. Investigators learned there is a John Birch Society major coordinator for Orange, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties and he has two coordinators directly under him.

12. Investigators expected to find a dictatorship and didn't find it.

13. The society as a whole works very hard to make sure that John Birch Society isn't used as a vehicle to promote prejudices.

14. Investigative work included checking out documented information by factfinding groups which is used as a basis for some John Birch Society work.

These sheets are available, in any quantity,
at one cent each. Order from
The John Birch Society, Belmont 78, Massachusetts

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 10/30/62

FROM : SAC, Little Rock (100-3396)

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

REC-15
EX-116

Enclosed herewith to the Bureau are the original and four copies of letterhead memorandum captioned [redacted] Houston, Texas". Enclosed to Houston is one copy of this letterhead memorandum for information inasmuch as [redacted] address is listed as Houston, Texas. A copy of this letterhead memorandum has been furnished to U. S. Attorney, Little Rock; however, no copy is being furnished to INTC, Little Rock, since they are the source of the information. MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

The confidential source referred to by [redacted] in the attached letterhead memorandum is [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

For the information of the Bureau, the ~~Arkansas Minutemen Association~~ referred to in the attached letterhead memorandum is not an organization as such; however, it is another name utilized by the ~~Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Klavern~~ of the ~~Association of Arkansas Klans of the Ku Klux Klan~~. *mc*

INFORMANTS

Identity of Informant

File Where Located

LR T-1 is [redacted]

b7D

The sources utilized in the characterization of the Association of Arkansas Klans are as follows:

b6
b7C
b7D

[redacted] Columbia, South Carolina
[redacted] of Horry County,

REC- 55

62-104401-1777

- 2 - Bureau (Encl. 2) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1 - Houston (Encl. 1) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1 - Little Rock (Encl. 1)

(4)

60 NOV 21 1963

AGENCY

REQ. REC'D

DATE FORW.

HOW FORW.

BY

b6

b7C

13 OCT 31 1962

100 2200
H2, ONI, OSI, RAO (06-D)
11-5-62
H/S
JHK:mar

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/16/89 BY SP4/BJP/BJP

LR 100-3396

South Carolina



b7D



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO
FILE No. _____

United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation

215 U. S. Post Office
Little Rock, Arkansas
October 30, 1962

[redacted]
[redacted] Houston, Texas

On October 24, 1962, [redacted] 112th
INTC Group, Little Rock, Arkansas, advised that he had
received the following information from a confidential
source:

[redacted] Houston,
Texas, has contacted members of the John Birch Society
and the Arkansas Minutemen Association in Pine Bluff,
Arkansas, and has attempted to purchase an unspecified
amount of arms and ammunition from them. [redacted] claims
to be a member of the John Birch Society in Texas and
also a member of other unspecified right-wing organizations.

On October 19, 1962, [redacted]
[redacted] Pine Bluff Arsenal (PBA), Arsenal, Arkansas, re-
ported that [redacted]

[redacted] and
is assigned by that organization as [redacted]
[redacted] that [redacted] had de-
signed. [redacted] several weeks ago but was
found not to have the necessary security clearance for
access to the project. Upon checking with the United
States Air Force, [redacted]

[redacted] it was discovered that the
architectural engineering contract had been awarded to an
uncleared company and that the mistake had come about by
confusing [redacted]

[redacted] which
is a cleared facility under the cognizance of the United
States Air Force. The cognizant agency is presently in
the process of clearing [redacted]
[redacted] is not presently working [redacted] but has been
instructed by his company to remain in [redacted]
until they can get him properly cleared.

This document contains neither recommendations nor
conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and
is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be
distributed outside your agency.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/16/86 BY [redacted]

ENCLOSURE

62-104401-1777

b6
b7C
b7D

Re: [redacted]
[redacted] Houston, Texas

LR T-1 advised on September 18, 1962, that on the night of [redacted] the regular monthly meeting of the [redacted] of the John Birch Society was held at the [redacted] Arkansas. There was a guest visitor at this meeting. This guest was identified as [redacted] [redacted] seemed to be well versed in regard to the John Birch Society. LR T-1 advised that the John Birch Society Chapter in [redacted] continues to be led by members of the Association of Arkansas Klans of the Ku Klux Klan, a characterization of which is contained in the appendix hereto.

b6
b7C
b7D

A P P E N D I X

ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS KLANS
OF THE KU KLUX KLAN (AAK)

A source advised on April 22, 1959, as follows:

AAK was formed on April 21, 1959, at Pine Bluff, Arkansas, for the purpose of promoting white supremacy and segregation of the races but violence was disavowed. Leaders of AAK were previously members of the Original Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (OKKKK). [redacted] of OKKKK for the State of Arkansas, was carried over as the Grand Dragon of the new organization, AAK. A source advised that on August 11, 1960, [redacted] disavowed violence. Another source advised that on January 21, 1962, the new [redacted] [redacted] disavowed violence. [redacted] is the [redacted] of the AAK. Another source stated the ritual used by OKKKK is taken from the "Kloran" of the Association of South Carolina Klans of the Ku Klux Klan (ASCK).

b6
b7C

Regarding the ASCK, the following is noted:

A source advised on September 24, 1956, that the ASCK was organized in the fall of 1955 and is patterned after the Association of Carolina Klans (ACK). The source stated the ASCK is a new organization and not a re-birth of the ACK, although all high-ranking officials of the ASCK had been members of the ACK. The announced purposes of this organization are to promote white supremacy and to combat integration of races; however, the use of violence is disavowed.

A source advised on September 2, 1950, that the ACK was composed of groups formerly members of the Association of Georgia Klans (AGK), and although the ACK severed all connections with the AGK on November 14, 1949, the ideals, purposes and policies of the two organizations remained identical. The ACK became defunct after conviction and imprisonment of its highest official and other members in 1952.

The AGK has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/16/86 BY SP4/CLP/ML

ENCLOSURE

62-104401-1777

DIRECTOR, FBI

10/31/62

SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (100-new)

b6
b7C

**THE TWIN CITY COMMITTEE TO WARN
OF THE ARRIVAL OF COMMUNIST
IMPORTS ON THE LOCAL BUSINESS
SCENE
(INTERNAL SECURITY)**

There are enclosed herewith six copies of a Letterhead Memorandum for the Bureau setting forth information concerning the above captioned committee.

In addition, two copies of this Letterhead Memorandum are being furnished the Miami Office for information concerning the National Committee to Warn of the Arrival of Communist Imports on the Local Business Scene.

Mr. [] employed as an [] man by the Standard Oil Company, 2800 Wayzata Boulevard, Minneapolis, Minnesota, is the source referred to in the enclosed Letterhead Memorandum. Mr. [] voluntarily contacted the Minneapolis Office.

b6
b7C
b7D

The enclosed information is being furnished to the Bureau and Miami for information concerning the above group which has recently begun the dissemination of cards in retail outlets to discourage the sale of goods imported from communist countries.

Minneapolis Office indices are negative concerning the above captioned committee. Its [] is identified as Mrs. [] (Mrs. [])

b6
b7C

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 6) (RM)
 - (1 - JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY)
- 2 - Miami (Info) (Enc. 2) (RM)
 - (1 - National Committee to Warn of the Arrival of Communist Imports on the Local Business Scene)
 - (1 - JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY)
- 2 - Minneapolis
 - (1 - JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY) (100-12314)

(7)

b6
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6/12/86 BY SPY/CH/ML

NOT RECORDED

203 NOV 8 1962

NOV 23 1962

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-444483-9

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson _____
 Belmont _____
 Mohr _____
 Casper _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 DeLoach _____
 Evans _____
 Gale _____
 Rosen _____
 Sullivan _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 11-6-62

FROM : D. C. Morrell

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

NEW YORK

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 6/13/84 BY SP4 EWP/mre

By letter dated November 1st the captioned individual forwarded material sent to Project Alert, Box 392, Oyster Bay, New York, with a return address on the envelope of K. A. C., Box 3094, Los Angeles 54, California. Correspondent describes this material as hate literature, and it is noted that the Bureau's poster, "What You Can Do To Fight Communism," was included in this literature. The sentence, "Attack bigotry and prejudice wherever they appear; justice for all is the bulwark of democracy," was altered with the words CORE and NAACP written over the words bigotry and prejudice. The correspondent also states he is proud to have sold many, many copies of the Director's book, "Masters of Deceit," and he follows this with the statement he is also proud to be a member of the John Birch Society.

Included among the enclosures was an item from "The Tablet" of 6-2-62 which reported that an anticommunist speaker banned from the campus of State University College at Oyster Bay, had been threatened with a libel suit if he continued to report the fact that he was banned. This article described Mr. [REDACTED] as this individual whose illustrated anticommunist talk was canceled without good reason. [REDACTED] penned the notation on this article, "Mr. Hoover, this is for those who do not believe in an internal threat!"

b6
b7C

By letter dated October 15th correspondent requested the Director's comments concerning the John Birch Society and was advised that the Bureau does not make evaluations.

RECOMMENDATION:

EX - 120

REC-37

62-104401-1782

In view of the correspondent's irrational nature and the bigoted notations made on his enclosures, it is recommended no acknowledgment be made of this letter.

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

384
NOV 15 1962b6
b7C

62-104401-1803,1804,1805
CHANGED TO
62-109051-X1, X, X2

DEC 3 1963

mx / 2x

0

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/13/80 BY SP5/mae

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 12-17-2012

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 1-10-63

FROM: [redacted] Legal Attaché, Madrid (163-117) (P.)

b6

b7C

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
FPC

62-104401

On 1-8-63 [redacted]

requested background information regarding the John Birch Society. Only limited information is available regarding this organization in the files of Legat, Madrid.

b6

b7C

It is accordingly requested that the Bureau furnish suitable background information, including identities of the officers, regarding the John Birch Society for dissemination to the Spanish authorities.

cc per 817 R/S [redacted]
3 - Bureau (1 - Liaison Section)
1 - Madrid

(4)

REC-5

EX-118

62-104401-1807

17 JAN 15 1963

b6

b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Classified by SP4 [redacted]
Declassify on: OADR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1 - Mr. Kleinkauf

Legal Attache, Madrid (163-117)

January 22, 1963

EX-118

REC-133

Director, FBI (62-104401) - 1807

**JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION**

Reurlet 1/10/63.

In accordance with your request there are transmitted herewith an original and one copy of a memorandum setting forth background information concerning the John Birch Society and its founder, Robert H. W. Welch, Jr. You may desire to make the enclosed copy available to your source.

In view of the fact the Bureau has not investigated the Society, a current list of national officers of the Society is not available.

Enclosures (2)

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (route through for review)

MAILED TO

COMM-FBI

50 JAN 25 1963

FBI - NEW YORK
REC'D - NEW YORK

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

ENCLOSURE

(5)

REC'D WASH
JAN 25 1963

b6
b7C

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

1 - Mr. Kleinkauf

January 22, 1963

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

The John Birch Society (JBS) and its founder, Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., have not been investigated by this Bureau. The following information is set forth concerning JBS and Welch.

Background Concerning the Society

The Society was organized in Indianapolis, Indiana, in December, 1958, by Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., a wealthy candy manufacturer of Belmont, Massachusetts, to further Welch's anticommunist campaign. It was incorporated on December 23, 1958, as a nonprofit business organization under the laws of the State of Massachusetts and was assigned Charter Number 424-300. The officers were listed as Robert Welch, President and Treasurer, and Ellen M. Lovett, Clerk (Secretary). The Directors were listed as Mary M. White, Robert Welch and Ellen M. Lovett. The Incorporators were listed as Robert Welch; Marian Probert Welch (wife of Robert Welch); Ellen M. Lovett; Mary M. White; Ellen Douglas Snow, also known as Mrs. Stanley Carman Snow, formerly Mrs. Alexander Gucker; Philip L. Jenkins; and Juliette D. Guild. All of the aforementioned are residents of the Boston, Massachusetts, area. The aims and purposes of the organization were listed as to promote civic interest in national and international affairs by an educational program and the collection and dissemination of literature for educational purposes. Welch has characterized the long-range objective of this Society as "less government, more responsibility and a better world."

According to newspaper accounts, JBS at the beginning of 1961 had chapters in approximately 35 states and it was estimated the Society might have 100,000 members by the end of 1961. According to a press announcement dated

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

62-104401

NOTE ON YELLOW: Original and one copy to Legal Attache, Madrid, by cover communication, same date, same caption,

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit

(5)

62-104401-1809
either
b6
b7C
ENCLOSURE

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

August 23, 1962, a representative of the Society in Los Angeles, California, stated on August 23, 1962, that the Society's national membership had more than doubled in the previous year. In a statement issued by the above representative it was reported that it was interesting to note the Society had enjoyed particularly heavy membership increases with "each national setback such as the Cuban situation, Katanga, Laos, the steel mandate, the stock market confusion and when the Society has been publicly attacked." According to the above release, a spokesman at the national headquarters of the Society declined to comment on the reported increase in membership or to state the number of members which the Society then had. The most pronounced activity on the part of Welch and the Society, in the past, in Welch's anticommunist campaign has been charges of communists being in high Government positions, including former President Dwight D. Eisenhower. One of the most recent major activities in this regard has been the calling for the impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren of the United States Supreme Court.

Background Concerning Welch

Information available to this Bureau discloses the last known office address of Welch as being 385 Concord Avenue, Belmont, Massachusetts, from which literature of the Society is mailed and distributed. Newspaper accounts have quoted Welch as stating that he is the absolute boss of the Society and as saying the Society must be run by a "hard-boiled, dictatorial and dynamic boss."

A description of the tactics employed by Welch in carrying on the activities of the Society is seen in the statement of Spruille Braden, the former United States Ambassador and a member of the Society's council, as quoted in an article on the Society which appeared in the press on March 30, 1961. In this article Braden stated he did not agree with Welch's charge against President Eisenhower; that Welch may exaggerate sometimes; but "When you're in a barroom brawl, no holds are barred. You don't fight by the Marquis of Queensberry rules."

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

On November 20, 1961, Welch made a statement at a rally in Austin, Texas, that "A comparatively few thousand communists, concentrated in key departments" of the Government have taken the United States "steadily down the road to communism...." Welch was called upon to turn over to this Bureau the facts in his possession and the sources thereof which might establish that certain Government employees are members of the Communist Party; however, to date, Welch has not communicated with this Bureau to supply such information.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI (62-104401)

DATE: Jan. 15, 1963

FROM : [REDACTED], Denver (62-1623)

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
[REDACTED] COLORADO
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/23/86 BY SP4 EUP/mec

b6
b7C

The Bureau has been furnished newspaper clippings regarding a feud developing in the small farming community of [REDACTED] Colorado, as a result of a signboard placed on property by [REDACTED] a farmer and native of the [REDACTED] area. The sign contains the following:

"Save Our Republic! Impeach Earl Warren.
For information write QCOC, [REDACTED] Colo.
Join - John Birch Society!"

On December 24, 1962, [REDACTED] attorney in Denver, Colorado, and a former Assistant U. S. Attorney, contacted this office and stated that [REDACTED] was in Denver and was fearful for his life and wanted to contact the FBI.

On December 26, 1962, [REDACTED] visited the Denver Office and advised he was the Head of the John Birch Society at [REDACTED] and that as a result of his installing a sign, described above, he has received certain harassment. He stated that on four or five occasions unknown individuals had attempted to burn the sign and that on three occasions he had received a phone call from some unknown man who made sarcastic remarks. [REDACTED] said he would cooperate in any way with the FBI.

b6
b7C

② - Bureau
1 - Denver

(3)

ST-11A

REC-6A

62-104401-1809

17 JAN 17 1963

DN 62-1623

Mr. [] was specifically advised that if he is fearful for himself and his family and wanted protection for his property, he should contact the local law enforcement officials.

He stated he had contacted Sheriff E.G. ORMSBEE, Kit Carson County, Colorado. He stated he has not received any satisfaction from Sheriff ORMSBEE.

Mr. [] was then told that perhaps he should contact his local district attorney. He stated that he would.

b6
b7C

The above is being furnished for the Bureau's information in order to record that there is a John Birch Society located in [] Colorado. It is to be noted further from a newspaper clipping of the "Denver Post" dated December 20, 1962, that [] told the newspaper reporter that there are from seven to fifteen members in the chapter in []

It is also reported in the December 20, 1962, issue of the "Denver Post" that DONALD V. VONDRA, who identified himself as the co-ordinator of the John Birch Society, stated there are approximately fifteen separate chapters of the John Birch Society in Colorado.

No investigation is being conducted regarding the John Birch Society; however, any information that comes to our attention is being maintained for future reference.

HARRY R. SHEPPARD
335 DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

HOME ADDRESS:
YUCAIPA, CALIF.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

January 23, 1963

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

CHAIRMAN, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. Belmont ✓
Mr. Mohr ✓
Mr. Casper ✓
Mr. Callahan ✓
Mr. Conrad ✓
Mr. DeLoach ✓
Mr. Evans ✓
Mr. Gale ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Sullivan ✓
Mr. Tavel ✓
Mr. Trotter ✓
Tele. Room ✓
Mr. Nease ✓
Mr. Gandy ✓

C
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Ed:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1-13-86 BY SP8/MLP

Your book titled "A Study of Communism" was delivered to my office by Mr. Kemp yesterday. Thank you very much, Ed, for the courtesy extended.

I personally feel that Communism is one of our outstanding problems and I am also interested in the type of internal threat this is presently emanating in the so-called Birch Society. They appear to be gaining in their membership which to me means a rather interesting psychological approach emanating from that group, that is, the creating of psychological distrust of our form of government by alleging that many departments of the government are controlled by Communists or Communist sympathizers. At least the Commies have told us that they intend to absorb us, destroy us, etc., but the Birchites are doing an extremely destructive internal psychological job. I often wonder where they get their funds to prosecute the costly operations they are conducting. I feel sure you and your Bureau are conversant with the entire picture.

I would like an opinion from you pertaining to that organization either officially or unofficially unless you feel it is not within your purview to express your comments pertaining to the Birchites.

62-104401-
NOT RECORDED

167 FEB 7 1963

10 FEB 7 1963

55 FEB 14 1963

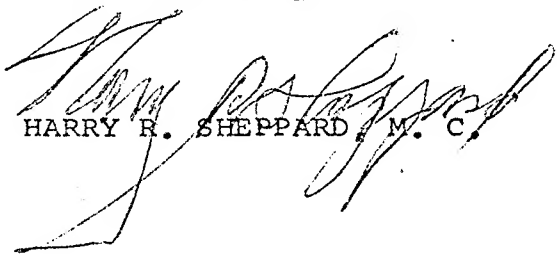
ORIGINAL FILED IN
24-4-3515-20

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

January 23, 1963

My compliments for the wonderful job you and your Bureau have always done and extending to you personally my best wishes for your continued success, I am

Yours cordially,



HARRY R. SHEPPARD, M. C.

HRS/B

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach *DeLoach*

DATE: 1-28-63

FROM : D. C. Morrell *DCM*ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/13/84 BY SP4/epre

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN HARRY R. SHEPPARD

b6
b7C

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Tolson | _____ |
| Belmont | _____ |
| Mohr | _____ |
| Casper | _____ |
| Callahan | _____ |
| Conrad | _____ |
| Felt | _____ |
| Gale | _____ |
| Rosen | _____ |
| Sullivan | _____ |
| Tavel | _____ |
| Trotter | _____ |
| Tele. Room | _____ |
| Holmes | _____ |
| Gandy | _____ |

John Congressman Sheppard wrote January 22nd and thanked the Director for having delivered to his office a copy of "A Study of Communism." He stated that he feels communism is one of our outstanding problems but is also interested in the type of internal threat emanating from the so-called Birch Society. He wonders where the Birchites get their funds and believes they are doing an extremely destructive internal psychological job. He is sure the Bureau is conversant with the entire picture and would like the Director's opinion pertaining to the organization either officially or unofficially unless the Director feels it is not within his purview to express such comments.

Congressman Sheppard extends his compliments for the wonderful job the Director and the FBI have always done and he extends to the Director best wishes for continued success.

Bufiles indicate that Congressman Sheppard (Democrat-California) was elected to the 75th Congress on 11-3-36, and re-elected to succeeding Congresses. Over the years our contact with him has been somewhat limited. He has expressed on occasion admiration for the FBI and the Director and was sent an autographed copy of "Masters of Deceit" for which he thanked the Director by letter dated 4-4-62. Inspector Edward C. Kemper delivered a copy of "A Study of Communism" to the Congressman on 1-22-63.

To a regular correspondent, we would advise of the confidential nature of FBI files pursuant to Department of Justice regulations and also that the FBI is strictly an investigative agency of the Federal Government and, as such, does not make evaluations nor draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual.

OBSERVATION:

Since our only reply to inquiries of this type is a negative reply, it is believed it could be handled more diplomatically through personal contact.

1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosure

62-104401
NOT RECORDED
167 FEB 7 1963

FEB 7 1963

CORRESPONDENCE

54 FEB 14 1963

F20

b6
b7C

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-4-3575-2

Morrell to DeLoach memo

Re: CONGRESSMAN HARRY R. SHEPPARD

1-28-63

RECOMMENDATION:

That someone in your (Mr. DeLoach) office contact the Congressman or a member of his staff and orally acknowledge the letter to the Director. He should be thanked for his kind comments and best wishes and diplomatically advised of the confidential nature of Bureau files and the fact that we do not make evaluations. He should be further advised that the FBI has not investigated the John Birch Society.

b6
b7C

2-1-63

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 2/8/63

SAC, RICHMOND (100-9991) - C -

b6 SUBJECT: ROBERT H. WELCH, JR.
b7C INFORMATION CONCERNING-
INTERNAL SECURITY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6/13/86 BY SP5/SP6/SP7

Re SAC Letter Number 59-13 dated 3/10/59, requesting that information concerning the activities of WELCH be brought to the attention of the Bureau.

On 1/30/63, [redacted] Francis C. Hammond High School, Alexandria, Virginia, made available a picture post card, the face of which carries a glossy photograph of the U. N. Building, New York City and is captioned "The House That Hiss Built". A small gummed sticker is pasted on the front of the card and written on there is "get US out". The address side of the card carries the following legend: "On December 10, 1961, the forty-six civilian doctors of Elizabethville, Katanga, sent the following telegram to UN Acting Secretary-General U Thant: 'We regret your shameful lie that your mercenaries do not shoot at Red Cross vehicles. You will have a right to talk about such things when you have spent nights with us in our hospitals bombed by your faithless and lawless ruffians'."

b6
b7C

EXP. PROC.

By all means let's give Communist China a seat in the United Nations--our seat! And since we do not want the Red Chinese coming to New York, let's ask them to move UN headquarters to Peiping or Moscow where it really belongs. Get US out! Copyright 1962 by AMERICAN OPINION Belmont 78, Massachusetts".

100-9991-2 ST BN.P.
-Bureau
-Richmond

(4)

REC-10

REC-10

b6
b7C

EX-101

8 FEB 11 1963

(61)
54 FEB 18 1963

SUB

RH 100-9991

[redacted] stated that the seven cards received by the teachers of Hammond High School were all postmarked at Alexandria, Virginia, on January 3, 1963. The cards were sent anonymously and addressed to the following seven teachers: [redacted]

b6
b7C

The post card is being retained in the files of the Richmond Division. No further investigative action is contemplated in this matter UACB.

2/15/63

Airtel

EX-102

To: SAC, Miami

From: Director, FBI

STUART, FLORIDA
RESEARCH (CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS)
BUDED 2/25/63

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/15/86 BY SP8EUP/RE

b6
b7C

Enclosed are two copies of a letter from captioned individual who cannot be identified in Bufiles.

You are instructed to have her contacted and her letter orally acknowledged. She should be advised we regret we are unable to help her in view of the confidential nature of Bureau files and since we do not make evaluations of organizations. She should be further advised that the FBI is not conducting an investigation of the John Birch Society.

Results are to be furnished, under above caption, to reach the Bureau no later than 2/25/63.

Enclosures (2)

Follow-up made for 2/25/63

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

F B I

Date: 2/23/63

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Mr. Tolson | ✓ |
| Mr. Belmont | ✓ |
| Mr. Mohr | ✓ |
| Mr. Casper | ✓ |
| Mr. Callahan | ✓ |
| Mr. Conrad | ✓ |
| Mr. DeLoach | ✓ |
| Mr. Evans | ✓ |
| Mr. Gale | ✓ |
| Mr. Rosen | ✓ |
| Mr. Sullivan | ✓ |
| Mr. Tavel | ✓ |
| Mr. Trotter | ✓ |
| Tele. Room | ✓ |
| Miss Holmes | ✓ |
| Miss Gandy | ✓ |

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, MIAMI (80-1039) (RUC)

SUBJECT: MRS. JOHN H. SCHEIDEGGER
STUART, FLORIDA
RESEARCH (CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS)

ReBuairtel, 2/15/63.

220,504
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-13-86 BY SP4 Eupre

Indices of the Miami Division fail to reveal any
reference identifiable with captioned individual.

On 2/21/63, Mrs. JOHN H. SCHEIDEGGER was contacted
at her residence at Route 2, Box 420-D, Stuart, Fla., by SA [redacted] b6
[redacted] Her letter of 2/7/63 was acknowledged and b7C
she was advised that we regret we are unable to be of assistance
in this matter in view of the confidential nature of Bureau files.
She was also advised that the FBI does not make evaluations of
organizations and that the FBI is not conducting an investigation
of the John Birch Society.

Mrs. SCHEIDEGGER was very cordial and expressed
appreciation for the prompt acknowledgement of her letter.
She stated that she understands the reason that the files of
the FBI must be confidential and indicated her respect for the
Director and his organization. She said that the district
president of the PTA had advised her of the proper manner in
which to handle the issue of the John Birch Society should
the occasion arise and she now feels that it will not be a
problem.

③ - Bureau 15400 BH:PS
1 - Miami

(4)

b6
b7C

Sent

62-104401-1829
26
11 FEB 25 1963
CORRESPONDENCE

55 MAR 4 1963

Agent in Charge

MM 80-1039

Mrs. SCHEIDEGGER was advised that in the future if the FBI could be of any assistance within the scope of its jurisdiction, that we would appreciate hearing from her.